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5-11-78 M. Schneider  
INR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

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No. 55, May 10, 1978

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

AFRICA Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

( ) Release (X) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s): FL, NR

Declassify: (X) In Part ( ) In Full

(X) Classify as C ( ) Extend as    ( ) Downgrade to   

Date 5/16/01 Declassify on    Reason 25X1

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810208  
Box 4979

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Argentina

Torture Still Used. There are few documented cases of the use of torture since last September, according to Embassy Buenos Aires. 31

Nonetheless, the Embassy concludes

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that clandestine arrest, hostile interrogation, and physical torture remain standard procedures in cases involving selected groups of detainees. With suspected terrorists and subversives, or persons believed knowledgeable about such activities, physical intimidation and psychological torture during and immediately after detention are often used to elicit the desired information. Physical torture is also employed in cases where suspects are uncooperative.

The Embassy believes that these tactics will continue in use, at least until after the World Cup soccer matches (June 1-25). Their demonstrated efficiency in producing timely information militates strongly against their abandonment by security personnel. [REDACTED], Buenos Aires 3394, May 3)

INR Comment: The physical mistreatment of so-called "hardcore terrorists" is not widely disputed within the military. The debate centers more on the mistreatment of non-terrorists such as out-of-favor labor leaders and politicians, human rights advocates, and leftist intellectuals. [REDACTED]

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